

Hubbard Farms Historic District

General boundaries: W. Vernor Highway, W. Grand Blvd., W. Lafayette Blvd., and Clark Street.

Local	v	2/26/93
State		
State Marker		
National	v	1/29/93



1500 Block Hubbard



Historic overview:

Originally a Pottawatomie Indian village, the area of Hubbard Farms was rich in Indian burial mounds. In the 1830s, one such mound was opened by a party of explorers, including Bela Hubbard, who found an abundant deposit of human bones, arrowheads, stone axes and other relics. The French granted the area as “Springwells” to Robert Navarre, Jr. in the 1700s. They called it “Belle Fontaine” or “Beautiful Springs” because of the natural springs located near the present site of Fort Wayne. The natural springs furnished water for troops during the War of 1812. The earliest English name given to the area was “Spring Hill”, and was officially named Springwells Township in 1827.

The Hubbard Farms Historic District occupied part of five ribbon farms in the early 1800s. One farm was Whitmore Knagg’s, an interpreter during the War of 1812, who knew English, Dutch, French and five Indian dialects. Bela Hubbard’s father purchased this land for him in 1835. Hubbard commissioned four statues, and built a road that he later deeded to the city to become part of W. Grand Blvd. He also was a founder of the Detroit Museum of Art. Indian Avenue was named as such in 1856 because it crossed a ridge which abounded in Indian graves, but was later renamed Hubbard.

Other early famous residents lived in Hubbard Farms. Clark Park was opened to the public at the turn of the century thanks to the donation of Hubbard farm resident John P. Clark. Another generous resident was Daniel Scotten, who became owner of the Hiawatha Tobacco Works, one of the largest tobacco factories in the U.S. Hubbard Farms was incorporated into the City of Detroit around 1885, and is should be remembered for its significant architectural as well as cultural merit.

